

LIQUID-LIQUID EXTRACTION APPARATUS AND METHOD

Abstract

Method and apparatus for contacting two liquid phases for liquid-liquid extraction in a vertical extraction vessel. A relatively heavier liquid phase, descending the extraction vessel at a relatively low volumetric flow rate, is dispersed into a continuous phase comprising a relatively lighter liquid rising through the extraction vessel at a relatively high flow rate. Sieve trays are provided with adjustable active areas and overlapping manways for personnel access.